COPY

OF THE

RESOLUTIONS, RULES,

AND

ORDERS

OF THE

SAILORS FUND,

SOUTH SHIELDS,

FOR

MUTUAL RELIEF;

AND ALSO

For the Relief of their Widows and Children.

SOUTH SHIELDS:
PRINTED AT THE MINERVA PRESS,
By W. Hallgarth, Jun.

1798.

C O L A

ARTICLES

OF

AGREEMENT

Indented, had, made, concluded, and agreed upon, this 28th Day of January, in the Thirty-eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-eight, between Thomas Cook, George Driver, Alexander Falconer, John Gibson, John West, John Scott, David Fotheringham, John Francis, William Touens, Donaldson Smith, William Barclay, Charles Courley, John Latten, George Nicholson, Alexander Robinson, John Gates, George Crawford, John Campbell, and Elias Pearson, *being Seamen resident in the towns of South and North Shields, and the Neighbourhoods thereof; and the several other Persons who shall, on the day of the date hereof, or at any time hereafter, be admitted into and become Members of and in this Association, and shall sign, seal, and duly execute these Presents of the one part, and* William Forrest, *of South Shields aforesaid, Schoolmaster, of the other part:*

Section I. WHEREAS at a Meeting of the Parties hereto of the first part, held on the day of the date hereof, at the house of Mr John Robson, known by the sign of Hope and the Anchor, in the

the Market-place, in South Shields aforeſaid, have formed themſelves into a Society, for the ſupport of themſelves and their families, by the name of the *Sailors Fund;* and have this day raiſed a fund to the amount of four hundred pounds and upwards for that purpoſe; and have agreed to raiſe further ſums of money, by monthly or other ſubſcriptions, and to enter into ſeveral Rules for their regulation, in the manner hereafter mentioned:—*Now theſe preſents witneſs*, That each of the ſaid Parties hereto of the firſt part, doth hereby for himſelf, ſeverally and not jointly, and for his ſeveral and reſpective heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators, covenant, promiſe, and agree, to and with the ſaid William Forreſt, his executors and adminiſtrators (a truſtee nominated for that purpoſe;) and alſo to and with each other, ſeverally and reſpectively, and his and their ſeveral and reſpective heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators, to unite and aſſociate themſelves in the ſaid Society, for the relief and ſupport of ſuch of them as ſhall ſuffer by ſhipwreck or capture, or be afflicted with any ſickneſs, accidental misfortune, infirmity, or old age; and alſo for the relief of their widows and children, by the name of the *Sailors Fund*, ſubject to the following Rules and Regulations:

II. That the Members ſhall conſiſt of ſo many in number, and of ſuch perſons as the majority of the Aſſociation, at any General Meeting to be held for that purpoſe, ſhall think proper; and the Society ſhall not be diſſolved or determined ſo long as the intent or purpoſe, declared by ſuch Society, or any of them, ſhall remain to be carried into effect, without the conſent and approbation of $\frac{5}{6}$ parts, in number, of the

then exiſting Members of ſuch Society; and alſo of all perſons then receiving, or then entitled to receive, relief from ſuch Society, either on account of ſickneſs, ſhipwreck, capture, misfortune, age, or infirmity, to be teſtified under their hands individually and reſpectively.

III. That the ſaid Tho. Cook, Geo. Driver, Alex. Falconer, John Gibſon, John Weſt, John Scott, David Fotheringham, John Francis, and William Touens, ſhall be the preſent Committee of the ſaid Society, who ſhall attend at any time when called upon; and the determination of any ſeven or more of ſuch Committee ſhall be binding and concluſive to all the other Members, unleſs annulled by a majority of the Members at any General Meeting: And the ſaid Committee, or any future Committee, or the majority thereof, ſhall have power to make By-laws and Regulations for the good of the Society, and may augment the benefactions hereinafter expreſſed, when the fund will admit; and may diminiſh them when the fund ſhall not be ſufficient to diſcharge the whole, agreeable to the Rules hereinafter mentioned.

IV. And the ſaid Committee, and all future Committees, who ſhall be hereafter appointed, do hereby covenant, promiſe, and agree, to and with the ſaid William Forreſt, his executors and adminiſtrators, and to and with each other, that they, and each of them, ſhall and will, well and truly diſcharge their offices, according to the true meaning of theſe preſents; and apply the fund and contributions to be raiſed to the purpoſes thereof.

V. That

V. That each perſon who ſhall, after the date hereof, be admitted a Member of this Society, ſhall be of the age of 35 years, and ſhall be healthy, and of good character; and ſhall be admitted in the room of the Society only at a General or Special Meeting, with the conſent or majority of the Members then preſent; and, upon ſuch admittance, pay into the fund the ſum of ten ſhillings and ſixpence.

VI. That each Member belonging to the Aſſociation, who ſhall not be a ſeaman, or work on ſhore, ſhall attend at the houſe in South Shields, where the box of the Society ſhall be kept, and the buſineſs of the Aſſociation tranſacted, at ſeven of the clock in the evening, in the firſt day of every month in the year (except the ſame ſhall fall on a Sunday, and then on the day following) and then pay into the box or fund of the Company after the rate of one ſhilling for every twenty ſhillings he ſhall have earned in the preceding month, unleſs he ſhall be able to aſſign a ſufficient reaſon for his non-attendance.

VII. And that each Member, who ſhall be a ſeaman going to ſea, and ſhall be hired by the month, ſhall cauſe to be paid, at the concluſion of every month, into the box or fund of the Company after the rate of one ſhilling for every twenty ſhillings, for ſo much monthly wages as ſhall be left on ſhore or at home; and ſhall account for and ſettle for the reſt of the monthly pay, in the like proportion, at the concluſion of every voyage: And each ſeaman, who ſhall be hired, and ſail by the voyage, ſhall pay his like proportion of one ſhilling for every twenty ſhillings upon the amount of his wages, into the ſaid box or fund, at

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the concluſion of the voyage, or on the arrival of the ſhip he ſhall belong to in Tynemouth Haven.

VIII. And it is further covenanted and agreed, by and between the ſame Parties, that every Member who ſhall not, within two days after his payments ſhall become due, pay up the ſame, ſhall pay into the box the ſum of five ſhillings, without he ſhall be able to aſſign a ſatisfactory reaſon to the Committee to the contrary: And if he ſhall make default in ſuch payment a ſecond time after making his voyage, it ſhall and may be lawful for the majority of the Members preſent at the then next monthly Meeting, to be held after the expiration of ſuch days of payment, to exclude and expel ſuch Member ſo in arrear from and out of this Company or Aſſociation, by writing under their hands, to be entered in the book of the Company, and a true copy thereof ſhall be delivered to the Party offending, or left for him at his uſual place of reſidence, within three days after ſuch entry; and the Party excluded ſhall forfeit all the money he ſhall have then paid into the fund, and ſhall be totally debarred from receiving any benefit therefrom.

IX. That if a Member ſhall conceal or deny any part of ſuch earnings, with intent to defraud the Company in any reſpect, upon due proof being made thereof, to the ſatisfaction of a majority of the Members preſent at a monthly Meeting, he ſhall, for the firſt offence, pay the ſum of ten ſhillings and ſixpence; and for a ſecond offence, be expelled the Society, and forfeit all his property and intereſt therein.

X. That

X. That if any perſon, who ſhall have been a Member for two years, ſhall, through ſickneſs, accidental misfortune, or old age, become unable to follow his employment, he ſhall receive from the fund the ſum of ſeven ſhillings per week, commencing at the end of one week's illneſs; and if he continue ſo for one year, although at different times, the payment ſhall be reduced to five ſhillings per week during his affliction, or for life if unable to make a ſufficient endeavour for a livelihood: But if ſuch ſick, hurt, or infirm Member ſhall have been a ſubſcriber for leſs than two years, and ſhall die in the mean time, and leave a widow, all the money which he ſhall have paid into the fund ſhall be repaid to her; and if he ſhall leave no widow, the child or children of ſuch deceaſed Party ſhall receive the ſame; and if there ſhall be no child, the ſame ſhall be paid to the mother of the deceaſed; and for want of any ſuch relations, the money ſhall become the property of the remaining Members, and ſink into the fund.

XI. That if any hurt or ſickneſs ſhall happen or ariſe from quarrelling, and bruiſes gained thereby, or by laying violent hands on himſelf, or by any venereal complaint, ſuch Member ſhall not receive any benefit from this Society. And that if any other Member diſcovers ſuch ſick or maimed perſons at any improper or unlawful exerciſe when receiving the benefit of this Aſſociation, the evidence ſhall be ſufficient to enable the majority of the Committee to abridge his weekly payments from the fund.

XII. That if any of the Members ſhall go abroad in the merchant's ſervice, or ſhall be impreſſed, or enter

enter into his Majeſty's ſervice, and have no monthly pay left at home, he ſhall, on his return, and payment of his arrears, be entitled to the full benefit ariſing from the fund.

XIII. That if any Member ſhall be taken by a foreign enemy in time of war, or by any pirate in time of peace, and impriſoned, the ſum of four ſhillings per week ſhall be paid to his wife, or ſuch other perſon as he ſhall appoint to receive the ſame, from the time of his capture to his arrival in Great Britain, Ireland, or Scotland, or any other port or place, where he may or does enter into, and actually receives pay.

XIV. That if any perſon, who ſhall then have been a Member for two years, ſhall be ſhipwrecked, and the ſhip ſhall be loſt, and he ſhall looſe all his clothes or wages, on due proof being thereof made, to the ſatisfaction of a majority of the Committee, he ſhall be entitled to receive from the fund the ſum of ſeven pounds; or if he ſhall belong to any ſhip which ſhall be only run on ſhore or ſtranded, and got off again, the partial loſs which ſuch Member has ſuſtained ſhall alſo be proved, to the ſatisfaction of the Committee as aforeſaid, who, thereupon, ſhall make a reaſonable recompence to the ſuffering Member, according to the circumſtance of the caſe, not exceeding ſeven pounds.

XV. That if any perſon, who hath not been a Member for two years, ſhall happen to be ſhipwrecked, and the ſhip ſhall be loſt, the loſs of a Member ſuffering ſhall be proved, to the ſatisfaction of a majority of the Committee, and each of the Members ſhall pay an

equal ſum of money to the ſuffering brother, according to the circumſtance of the caſe, and the number of ſubſcribing Members; provided ſuch perſon ſhall not receive above the ſum of five pounds at any one time of ſuch contribution.

XVI. THAT if any Member ſhall happen to be loſt at ſea, or die, after having been two years a Member, and ſhall leave a widow and child or children, five pounds ſhall be paid to the widow for his funeral expences, and an annuity of five pounds to her for her life, and one pound yearly for each child, until he or ſhe ſhall attain the age of fourteen years, or be bound an apprentice, or go to ſervice; but if he ſhall leave only a widow, the annuity of five pounds ſhall be paid to her ſo long as ſhe continues a widow: And if ſuch widow ſhall bear an illegitimate child during her widowhood, her annuity ſhall ceaſe; and the aforeſaid donation to the child or children ſhall be applied for their benefit, at the diſcretion of the majority of the Committee.

XVII. THAT if any Member ſhall die, and leave a child or children, and no widow, two pounds ſhall be yearly applied for his, her, or their benefit, by the Committee, until they ſhall reſpectively attain the age of fourteen years, or be bound apprentice, or go to ſervice.

XVIII. THAT if any Member ſhall die, after being a ſubſcribing Member two years, and ſhall leave no wife, child or mother, the ſum of ten pounds ſhall be paid out of the fund, within three months after his deceaſe, to ſuch perſon or perſons as he ſhall direct by

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his will; and in default thereof, to the perſon or perſons who ſhall be living and next in kindred to him.

XIX. That on the death of the wife or mother of any Member, who ſhall have been two years a ſubſcribing Member, three pounds ſhall be paid out of the fund for the funeral expences of either of them, at the option of the Member.

XX. That if any perſon, who ſhall have been a Member two years, ſhall die, leaving no wife, but a mother, who ſhall be a widow, ſuch widowed mother ſhall be entitled to receive the ſame ſum of five pounds for funeral expences, and an annuity of five pounds for her life or widowhood.

XXI. That if any perſon, who ſhall have been a Member for two years, ſhall be detained by an enemy of this kingdom, and ſhall receive his wages for ſuch voyages as he ſhall make, he ſhall not receive any benefit from this fund.

XXII. That every Member of this Society, who ſhall go abroad in the King's or merchant's ſervice, ſhall correſpond, by letter, with the Committee of the Society every three months, informing them to what ſhip he belongs, with the name of the commander or owner, and maſter, and the ports and places to which the ſhip is bound or may be at; and if, by any unforeſeen means or accident, ſuch letter ſhall not arrive within that time to the Committee, three months more ſhall be admitted for the receipt thereof. And if it ſhall prove that ſuch Member ſhall be captured, and detained in priſon, or in any place from whence ſuch letter cannot be received by the Committee within

either of the limited ſpaces of time, then twelve calendar months ſhall be allowed for the receipt of ſuch letter, and no longer. And in the laſt caſe, if ſuch Member ſhall fall ſick, or receive any bodily hurt, ſo as to prevent him from following his lawful occupation, and ſhall neglect to correſpond in the manner aforeſaid, no wife, child, or mother ſhall receive any benefit from the ſaid fund.

XXIII. That if any Member, when out of town or places adjacent, ſhall fall ſick, he ſhall ſend a certificate thereof to the Committee or the perſon appointed to diſtribute the money, under the hand of a phyſician, ſurgeon, apothecary, miniſter, church-warden, overſeer of the poor, or other credible perſon where he ſhall then be, ſtating the date and nature of his complaint; and a like certificate of the continuation of the illneſs muſt be renewed weekly, ſo long as the patient ſhall receive relief from the fund.

XXIV. That if any perſon, who ſhall have been a Member for two years, ſhall fall ſick or ill, or receive any bodily hurt or lameneſs, during the time of his voyage, and ſhall receive wages for ſuch voyage, he ſhall not be entitled to any benefit from the Society during the time of ſuch voyage.

XXV. That if any Member ſhall know that a perſon is unqualified or unworthy to be received at the time of his offering himſelf to the Society, and ſhall conceal the ſame from the Committee; or ſhall reflect upon the conduct of another Member (whether in or out of the Society) to the prejudice of ſuch Member; or ſhall reproach another Member for receiving money from the Society; or ſhall declare another Member

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to be ſubject to the laws hereby made for expulſion, and cannot, after due notice by the Committee for that purpoſe, bring forward due proof of the fact; or ſhall diſcover or repeat any act or ſpeech which ſhall be done or uttered reſpecting the ſaid Society, to the prejudice of it or any of the Members; in any of ſuch caſes he ſhall forfeit five ſhillings.

XXVI. That if any Member ſhall falſely declare another Member ſubject to a fine, he ſhall forfeit ſixpence.

XXVII. That if any perſon hereafter to be appointed to attend the ſick Members, ſhall not pay their ſeveral contributions on or before ten of the clock on the night they ſhall reſpectively become due, he ſhall forfeit five ſhillings.

XXVIII. That if any Member ſhall come to the Club Room diſguiſed in liquor, at any Meeting of the Committee or Members, or at any funeral of a Member, or on the ſabbath day, he ſhall pay two ſhillings and ſixpence.

XXIX. That no child, who ſhall have been born a baſtard, ſhall receive any benefit from this Society.

XXX. That if any Steward of the Society ſhall not come to a General Meeting, or ſend his key of the box before eight of the clock in the evening (ſuch key then being in his poſſeſſion or under his charge) he ſhall forfeit two ſhillings and ſixpence.

XXXI. That upon the death of any Member, all the Members then at home ſhall attend his funeral (if

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at South Shields) or pay a fine of one shilling to the fund. And if any Member shall not meet in the Club Room before he goes to the church, he shall forfeit sixpence; and if he shall leave the company before the corpse shall be buried, he shall forfeit two shillings.

XXXII. That each Member shall spend twopence each monthly Meeting.

XXXIII. That if any Member, either in or out of the Meeting of the Society, shall strike another of the Members, in anger, he shall forfeit the sum of five shillings; and if the other returns the blow, he shall also forfeit five shillings.

XXXIV. That if any Member shall reflect on the character of any other Member, whether in or out of the Society, to his prejudice, he shall forfeit five shillings.

XXXV. That if any Member shall, at any Meeting of the Society, swear or offer to lay wagers, or talk obscenely, or shall not keep his seat or silence when demanded by the Committee, he shall forfeit sixpence. And if any of the Committee shall so offend, he shall forfeit one shilling to the fund.

XXXVI. That if any Member shall, at a Meeting, leave the room, without the leave of the majority of the Committee present, he shall forfeit twopence to the fund.

XXXVII. That no person (not a Member) shall be admitted during any Meeting, without the vote of a majority of the Members present.

XXXVIII. That

XXXVIII. That if any of the buſineſs or affairs of the Society ſhall ariſe, which ſhall not be ſettled by the majority of the Committee (the ſame ſhall be propoſed to and adjuſted by a majority of the votes of the Members who ſhall be preſent at the next monthly Meeting;) and if any abſent Member ſhall reflect on the conduct of ſuch Members, or ſhall not agree to their determination, or to any matter regularly voted and carried thereby, he ſhall forfeit five ſhillings to the fund.

XXXIX. That if any Member ſhall receive any benefit from the fund by deceit, fraud, or mis-information, or by any other unlawful means; or ſhall be guilty of the crimes of murder, theft, or any other atrocious, immoral, or irregular fault, prejudicial to ſociety, on due proof being made, to the ſatisfaction of the majority of the Committee, he ſhall be expelled the Society by a majority of the votes of the Members preſent at a monthly Meeting; and ſhall forfeit all his intereſt and property in the fund.

XL. That a General Meeting of all the Members of this Aſſociation, who ſhall be then at home, ſhall be held on the Feaſt Day of St John the Evangeliſt in every year (if the ſame ſhall not fall on a Sunday, and if ſo then on the following day) at the houſe where the box ſhall be kept; when and where a dinner ſhall be provided by the keeper of the houſe, for which each Member ſhall pay the ſum of one ſhilling, and ſhall alſo expend ſixpence each for liquor, and then pay twopence each to the ſervant for cleaning the room.

XLI. That if any Member ſhall not pay into the fund all the fines which ſhall be impoſed upon him by theſe

theſe Rules, within three calendar months next after the time of impoſition, he ſhall either be excluded from the Society, or ſubmit to the determination of the majority of the Members preſent at the next monthly Meeting on what terms he ſhall be continued a Member; and, on his refuſal to abide by ſuch determination, ſhall be abſolutely expelled, and forfeit all his intereſt and property in the fund.

XLII. THAT as often as one hundred pounds ſhall ariſe from the aforeſaid ſubſcriptions and fines, it ſhall be placed out at intereſt, on ſuch ſecurity (by mortgage of land or houſes only) as the majority of the Members preſent at any monthly Meeting ſhall approve.

XLIII. THAT a ſtrong box ſhall be provided to hold the Company's ſtock, which ſhall have three different locks and keys; two of which keys ſhall be delivered to and kept by ſuch two of the Committee as ſhall be nominated for that purpoſe, by a majority of the Members preſent at the firſt monthly Meeting, and and the other ſhall be kept by the maſter or miſtreſs of the houſe where the Meeting ſhall be held; and that ſuch perſon ſhall enter into and execute a bond, with ſufficient ſureties, in ſuch penalties as the majority of the Parties hereto ſhall think neceſſary, for the ſafe production of the ſame and the contents thereof; and which ſhall never be opened or ſhut but in the preſence of the keeper thereof, his wife, or ſome perſon employed by him or her for that purpoſe.

In Witneſs whereof, the ſaid Parties to theſe preſents have hereto ſet their hands and ſeals, the day and year firſt above written.

AT

AT a *General Meeting* of the *Members* of this *Association*, held at the houſe of Mr John Robſon, in the Market-place, in South Shields, on the firſt day of February, 1798:

By-Law I. In conſideration of the great trouble and aſſiduity of Meſſieurs Archibald Glover, James Matthews, and Alexander Thompſon in the promotion of this Society and the intereſt thereof, it is agreed and reſolved, by a majority of the Members and Committee preſent, that the ſaid Archibald Glover, James Matthews, and Alexander Thompſon ſhall, from this day, be admitted Members hereof; they paying the ſum of one ſhilling and ſixpence monthly to the box; and in every other reſpect conforming themſelves to the Rules herein before laid down for the regulation of the Society.

II. That the ſaid Archibald Glover ſhall be and is hereby appointed the monthly Treaſurer for the ſaid Aſſociation, from this day, who ſhall enter into a bond, with two ſufficient ſureties, to the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Durham, for the due execution of his office: And the ſaid Archibald Glover promiſes and agrees that he will, at every monthly Meeting, produce a juſt and fair account of all the money which he ſhall have received and paid during the preceding month on account of the Society; and then pay

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into the fund all the money which he ſhall have in his cuſtody belonging to the Society.

III. THAT the ſaid James Matthews and Alexander Thompſon ſhall be and are hereby appointed Stewards of this Society, who ſhall enter into the aforeſaid bond to the Clerk of the Peace; and they ſhall have the charge of the ſick and hurt Members alternately, by weekly turns, from this day; and ſhall viſit the ſick and hurt Members twice in each week who ſhall then reſide within two miles of the townſhip of South Shields: And that the ſaid James Matthews ſhall take the charge of the firſt week.

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Durham, } *AT the General Quarter Sessions of the*
(to wit.) } *Peace, holden at the city of Durham, in and for the said county, on Wednesday the eighteenth day of April,* 1798, *before Sir John Eden, Baronet, Charles Spearman, Esq; Clerks and others, their fellows his Majesty's Justices of the, in, and for the said county:*

The Resolutions, Rules, Orders, and Regulations within written were exhibited to the Justices of the Peace assembled at the General Sessions; and, after due examination thereof, allowed and confirmed.

JOHN EDEN,
C. SPEARMAN, } *Justices of the Peace.*

SAMUEL CASTLE, Clerk of the Peace.

P. T.

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